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Discuss “What Makes a South Dakotan” at Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. -- The South Dakota State Historical Society will host a public discussion on the topic “What Makes a South Dakotan?” on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 7-8:30 p.m. CST at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Lana Dannenbring-Eichstadt, an instructor in AP English Literature and Composition from Wessington, will lead the discussion. Civic reflection discussions are being held throughout the state by the South Dakota Humanities Council (SDHC) to encourage public discourse about who we are and what we are about here and now in South Dakota.

The SDHC is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2012 by getting to the very roots of the people it serves. Answers and perspectives on what makes a South Dakotan will be published as the fifth volume of the SDHC’s “South Dakota Stories” series, set for release at this year’s annual South Dakota Festival of Books on Sept. 28-30 in Sioux Falls.

Drawing on personal experiences and observations, the SDHC wants to hear *your* story. Attendees at the discussion are not obligated to provide a story for the SDHC book unless they choose to do so. Submissions for the book are being accepted online at www.sdhumanities.org/WhatMakesaSouthDakotan.htm. For more information about the SDHC book project, contact Ryan Woodard at (605) 688-6113 or Ryan.woodard@sdstate.edu.

Founded in 1972, the non-profit SDHC’s core mission is to support and promote the exchange of ideas to foster a thoughtful and engaged society. The council promotes the appreciation of South Dakota history, literature and other related humanities subjects through grant-making and cultural programs such as the Festival of Books, Speakers Bureau, One Book South Dakota and others. The Council is online at www.sdhumanities.org.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.